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CITY COUNCIL

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Public Transit Authority Put Before Voters *Dela Cruz proposes a charter amendment to create a semi-autonomous transit authority*

Honolulu, HI: Councilmember Donovan M. Dela Cruz will propose creating a semi-autonomous public transportation authority (similar in structure to the Board of Water Supply) to oversee the general operation of Honolulu's future mass-transit system that was approved by the City Council in January of 2007. If approved by voters, the proposed charter amendment would place complete financial and operational discretion under the created authority.

Resolution 07-90 proposes the authority be made up of an appointed thirteen-member board of directors, including: five members appointed by city council, five members appointed by the mayor, one appointed by the speaker of the State House of Representatives, one appointed by the president of the State Senate, and one appointed by the governor.

'This resolution, if approved by the public, would take the politics out of mass-transit and lead to a better run system overall. We've got to start planning now,' says Dela Cruz.

Dela Cruz sees the Authority as a way to remove the burden of administering the new mass transit system from the City's Department of Transportation Services,

while also setting up a fund into which all revenues collected by the PTA will be deposited for its exclusive use.

If approved, the soonest this measure would be before the voting public would be 2008.

Honolulu City Councilman Donovan M. Dela Cruz represents Council District 2, which includes Mililani Mauka, Wahiawa, Whitmore Village, Mokuleia, Waialua, Haleiwa, Waimea, Pupukea, Sunset Beach, Kahuku, Laie, Hauula, Punaluu, Kahana, Kaaawa, Kualoa, Waiahole, Kahaluu, Ahuimanu, and a portion of Heeia.